



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love

January, 2020

Pastor's Ponderings



Sure, we all know about Star Wars, but do you know about Star Words?

"Star Words" is centered around Epiphany, January 6. Epiphany is the day when we celebrate the coming of the Wise Men or Magi, who followed the star in the east for many months, to bring their gifts and worship baby Jesus. But this journey ended up being more of a gift for those magi. The star was a gift to them – a gift that helped direct their feet and their focus. That star became their gift and focus until they reached Jesus.

God continues to bless us with gifts, and God helps to direct our feet and our focus in our lives. "Star Words" is a way to start the new year with a God-given focus.

In worship on January 5 and January 8, you'll have the opportunity to receive a Star Word as God's gift to you. You'll be invited to ponder what significance this word might have in your life and how God might be speaking to you through that simple message. After the service, you're invited to take your Star Word home and put it somewhere you'll see it often, so you can reflect on it and see how it'll speak to you through what's going on in your life. These words can truly be a gift from God, helping us to see how God is lighting our way and guiding our feet in the journeys of our lives.

So come join us on January 5th or 8th to get your Star Word. If you can't be here, feel free to call or e-mail (pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com), and I will send one to you.

In Christ,

+Pastor Jennifer



As we think about New Year's resolutions and goals for 2020 in our own lives, we'd like to do the same here at Grace. God continues to bless us, so how are we called to bless others? What are the needs around us? What would we like to be about and accomplish this year? We're looking for a few people who are interested in helping to explore how God is calling us to be, grow, and serve next. Are you interested in being part of this Vision Team? If so, please talk to Pastor Jennifer.

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Annual Meeting - January 19

Please mark your calendars for Grace's Annual Meeting, which will be Sunday, January 19 at 10:00 a.m. Your presence is requested as we reflect back on our ministry in 2019, elect new representatives to Church Council and other ministries, and look forward to exciting opportunities in 2020.

January Bible Study: *Laughing Through the Bible*



Somewhere along the line, I think most of us learned that faith is not a laughing matter. We were taught that religion is serious, laughing in worship is a no-no, and the Bible is to be sternly revered. But there is much more humor in the Bible than we usually realize. God gave us the sense of humor, so let's use it! This month's Bible

Study will explore several of the more humorous texts in the Bible, and it's absolutely okay to laugh! Join us in January on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. for "Laughing Through the Bible."

Mission Trip Coffee Hour

Join us for a special Epiphany coffee hour on Sunday, Jan. 5, with special treats to raise funds for the high school mission trip to Milwaukee.

Thank you for a Fantastic Christmas Program!

A huge thank you to all of the kids, parents, and volunteers who put in so much time and energy to make our Christmas Program fantastic! A special thank you to directors Virginia Becker and Teresa Neuenschwander, accompanist, Ann Engelstad, the Sunday School teachers and helpers, and Shawn Whitman, for all the hours of planning, rehearsing, set-design, chariot-building, and costume-making.

Confirmation Corner

This month, **Mentor Night is on Jan. 7 at 6:30 p.m.** This month in class, we'll begin our study of the New Testament.

Diner's Delight

Diner's Delight is a fellowship opportunity here at Grace where individuals are grouped together once a quarter to share a meal together. It's a great way to get to know other Grace members and to have fun around fantastic food. Interested in being a part of Diner's Delight this year? Sign up on a yellow sheet at church or call the church office by January 15.

January Volunteers

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Acolytes:	Nick Ellickson, Aiden Sperle	Julia Schneider, Carter Stenjem	Eli Key, Alonya Kessler	Josie Punsel, Ava Williams
Assisting Minister:	Jeff Gafner	Jen Hellberg	Shawn Koebke	Shawn Whitman
Coffee Hour:	Mission Trip Fundraiser	Ann Adsit, April Mickelson	Chris Watson, Pam Rieckmann	Michelle Albrect, Marcia Sivesind
Communion Set Up:	Ruth Circle	Watsons	Ruth Circle	Geis family
Communion Servers:	April Mickelson Rachel Drotzer Sierra Jelinek	Tom & Chris Watson, Shawn Whitman	Mary Behling, Val Anderson, Justin Gritzmaker	Tim & Evy Jeffers, Sharon Erb
Counting:	Cindy Hartman & Angie Williams	April Mickelson, Judy Heidebrecht	Mary Behling, Diane Russo	Amy Simdon & Patty Koeppel
Reader:	Bob Koepp	Shawn Whitman	Lori Jensen	Ann Engelstad
Ushers:	Justin Williams family	Gary & Sharon Haberkorn, Jeff & Julie Johnson	Shawnee Sullivan family	Dale & Marcia Klemp

New Financial Secretary

We are pleased to announce that Diane Russo will be our new Financial Secretary here at Grace. While Diane lived in Illinois most of her life, she spent most of her summers in Cambridge, attending church at Grace. When Diane and her husband Gerry moved to Cambridge full-time a couple years ago, Grace already felt like home to them. Diane has been working at Hometown Bank and is excited to be able to serve here at Grace. Please be patient and supportive as Diane learns all the details of this position, and welcome her to the Grace staff.



We want to thank Bonnie Watson for her hard work



Snow Shoveling Needed

We are seeking folks who are willing to shovel the church sidewalks on days it snows. All three of our entryways will need shoveling prior to 9 a.m. weekdays and prior to 8:00 a.m. Sundays on days it snows this winter. Even a light snow is slippery, so we hope that those who can commit to helping will come shovel even if there is just an inch on the ground. Salt and shovels are at each door. Please sign up for a specific week or day of the week. Thanks so much!



January Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Robert Cunningham Samuel Grender Cindy Hoffman Emmett Koehler Angela Williams	Joe Pleshek	Kimberly Borchartt Stephanie Borchartt
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Cheryl Mittelstedt Michael Mittelstedt	Nolan Adsit Ann Engelstad Emma Koeppel Karen Paxson				Tracy Punsel
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Stephany Hasz Maxwell Johnson	Evelyn Lund	Bill Cerar Toni Clemens Judy Klingforth	Carolyn Scholten	Deanne Herrling Jade Kenseth
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Piper Brovont Amanda Kosanda		Marcia Klemp			Brooke Borchartt Ryan Ellickson	Tami Collin
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Rachel Day	Shirley Engelstad	Neil Johnson Derek Glesinger		Sian Koebke	

OUR HOMEBOUND

Jon Bakken 309 Oriole Lane Cambridge, WI 53523
Geraldine Rattmann 2629 Highland Drive Cambridge, WI 53523
Bev Nottestad 118 S. Pleasant St. Cambridge, WI 53523
Mary Ellen Smith 912 Monroe St., Apt. 11 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
Shirley Engelstad 308 England St. Cambridge, WI 53523
Char Kenseth 555 W. Madison #5 Cambridge, WI 53523

Anniversaries

Jules & Jaci Brovont	1/5
Brad & Teri Johnson	1/12
Eric & Tracy Punsel	1/22
Jon & June Schuler	1/27

SHOWERS OF BLESSING PLEDGES for 2020

Pledge cards are still being collected. If you were have not yet pledged, please feel free to...

*drop yours in the offering plate on Sunday,

*leave it in the office on Virginia's desk,

OR

*mail it to the church.

Thank you for helping us budget!



Communion & Kitchen duties: Ruth Circle

Altar Guild: Andrya Coutts, Wendy Lehr, Betty Reay

Outreach & Social Justice News

The baby has come!

Indeed, THE baby has come. Like Mary, some mothers today are not quite prepared. Like Jesus, babies are born in lowly places, under less than ideal circumstances, in dangerous conditions and without adequate supplies.

We can help some mothers who find themselves in less than ideal circumstances. In Lutheran World Relief, we have a partner who helps us distribute baby care kits to places to which we have no access. LWR is a crucial link in this endeavor. It's important to understand that there are restrictions, i. e. diapers, towels and soap must be new. Clothes and blankets may be new or gently used (NO stains). There may NOT be any religious symbols, messages or group names, NO flags, patriotic or military symbols, NO camouflage! Only sizes 6-24 months are accepted.

The display in the sanctuary provides a lot of tags with gift suggestions. Take as many as you like and place your gift with the tags in the bin near the crib **by the end of January**. If you would like to make a monetary gift, see instructions on the back of each tag.

Direct any questions to the Outreach team. ***Thank you so much for your kindness!***

High School Breakfast Volunteers needed for January 8!

On **Wednesday, January 8** we are serving a breakfast of pancakes, hash browns, bacon, scrambled eggs, fruit and muffins! We are looking for individuals to help with the following shifts:

- *6:30a.m.-food prep and set up
- *7:00 a.m.-serving
- *8:15 a.m.-clean up

**Sign up sheet is
next to the office.
Thank you!**

January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> Office closed	2 5:30 p.m. Community Cafe	3	4
5 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Fellowship Hour-Mission Trip Fundraiser 10:30 Custom Canines Presentation & Potluck	6 9 a.m. Quilters 6 p.m. Bell choir practice 7 p.m. Laughing Through the Bible	7	8 7:30 a.m. High School Breakfast 9 a.m. Ruth Circle, Marcia Sivesind, hostess 4:30 Outreach Meeting 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mentor Night 6:30 p.m. Pre-confirmation	9 9 a.m. Lydia Circle at Grace	10	11
12 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Fellowship 10 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Choir practice	13 9 a.m. Quilters 6 p.m. Bell choir practice 7 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg. 7 p.m. Laughing Through the Bible	14 7 p.m. Stewardship Meeting 8 p.m. Grace Council Meeting	15 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Confirmation & Pre-confirmation	16	17	18
19 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Annual Meeting 10 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Choir Practice	20 MLK Day 9 a.m. Quilters 6 p.m. Bell choir practice 7 p.m. Laughing Through the Bible	21	22 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. 7th/8th gd. Confirmation	23	24	25
26 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Fellowship 10 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Choir Practice	27 9 a.m. Quilters 6 p.m. Bell choir practice 7 p.m. Laughing Through the Bible	28	29 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. 7th/8th gd. Confirmation	30	31	



Thank you!



Kathy and Chuck McCarty would like to thank everyone who sent them well wishes and cards during their recent hospital stays and recuperation!

Eunice Benin sends a sincere thank you to all the church members who sent her birthday cards in December!



Men's Breakfast

**First Sunday of the month at
7:30a.m.**

Mark your calendars
Bring a breakfast item to share
and a topic to discuss.



FOOD NEEDED: cereal, pancake mix & syrup, ketchup, Hearty soups, ramen noodles, Hamburger Helper, toilet tissue, paper towel, deodorant, hair shampoo and conditioner.



The Cambridge Lions will be hosting the free community meal on **January 2nd** @ 5:30-6:30 p.m.

They will be serving vegetable beef stew, roll and cake.

Cambridge High School,
403 Blue Jay Way
Everyone is welcome!

THANK YOU to all individuals in the community and churches and their members who contributed food and money donations toward the Christmas Baskets---The Food Pantry, with donations received, put together a total of 87 meals---so thank you for your generosity!

Sunday School

Teresa Neuenschwander,
Christian Education Coordinator
teresa478@hotmail.com



“Tremendous Faith - Growing In God’s Word”

How Will You Serve God?

Service Sundays

Our next Service Sunday is the **Homeless on January 10th**. Items that they are looking for are: underwear – all sizes men, women, kids, socks, hats, mittens, diapers – all sizes, blankets, toothpaste, tooth brushes, bars of soap.

Active Military donation update! We ended up shipping the majority of the items that were donated to Operation Gratitude in California. Every year, Operation Gratitude sends 300,000+ individually addressed Care Packages to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen deployed overseas, to their children left behind, and to First Responders, New Recruits, Veterans, Wounded Heroes, and their Care Givers. Each package contains snacks, hygiene products, entertainment, and handmade items, as well as personal letters of support. They were very happy to receive our boxes – there ended up being 4 of them stuffed full!! Thank You! Due to the cost of shipping, some of the items we held back, we will be donating those items to the homeless, American Family Children’s Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House.

Potluck and Special Presentation-Sunday, January 5th from 10:30-12:30

Kristin Grender and I are planning a church wide event. Kristin came to me in September with a presentation idea that would go along with our Service Sundays. She reached out to a couple of her contacts. Frank Lopez from **Custom Canines** will be here along with Jean Kalscheur from **Wisconsin Council for the Blind**. Frank trains service dogs and will be here doing a short presentation about how these amazing dogs help people. He is bringing his own seeing eye dog, Ravin, who loves to entertain! Jean speaks on a variety of topics related to changing vision and vision rehabilitation services. There will also be a potluck following the presentation. Special thanks to Kristin for helping with this!

Important Dates:

January 12th – Service Sunday- Homeless

(We will meet in the 4th & 5th grade room, along with GLOW, and put together Care Packages for the homeless.)

January 19th – Milestones Begins 3rd grade receive their Bibles during 9am service

3rd Grade students & parents meet with Pastor Jennifer after Sunday School for a Bible Class 11-12

January 26th, February 2nd, 9th, 16th – Milestones Continue

Milestones

On January 19th we will be starting Milestones. This is a breakaway our regular lessons. We will be taking a more in-depth look at the Lutheran Religion. Pre-K & K will be “Getting to Know Jesus”, 1st & 2nd grade will be learning more about worship in “Welcome to the Church”, 3rd and 4th will be learning about the Seasons of the Church and 5th grade will be learning about Martin Luther. Lessons are engaging with a lot of fun activities and projects planned.

Sunday School Christmas Program

"Just a Little Christmas" December 15

Written by: Sharon Kay Chatwell, Sundayschoolcenter.com
 Directed by: Virginia Becker & Teresa Neuenschwander
 Accompaniment: Ann Engelstad

Narrators: Alonya Kessler, Mason Neuenschwander, Miranda Borchardt
Angel of the Lord: Scarlett Jelinek
Little Angels: Paige Neuenschwander, Laney Kosanda, Ivy Kosanda & Josephine Rue
Mary: Marissa Kilburg **Joseph:** Aiden Williams
Emperor: Aticas Kessler **Advisor:** Brady Thayer
Animals: Cow-Griffin Sullivan, Sheep-Wesley Kosanda, Chicken-Kinsley Stenjem, Camel-Henry Albrecht, Donkey-Billy Becker, Sheepdog-Jack Johnson
Shepherds: Sammy Grender & Landon Hill-Houk
King Herod: Rory Sullivan
Herod's Soldiers: Gordie Grender, Aticas Kessler, Brady Thayer, & Rylan Tobias
Three Wisemen: Ashton Thayer, George Albrecht, Jackson Rue
Sound: Shawn Whitman
Chariot design & construction: Shawn Whitman & Virginia Becker



Narrators



Shepherds



Mary & Joseph



Wisemen



Emperor



Angels



Herod & soldiers



Advisor



The stable animals

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2019

Meeting called to order by President Steve Geis at 7:30 pm

Attendees:

Steve Geis, Kris Tobias, Tim Neuenschwander, Amanda Kosanda, Lori Jensen, Bryan Holmen, Amy Simdon, Jennifer Jelinek, Janet Koepp **Excused:** Shawn Koebke, Jean Scott, Erik Olsen

Action Items:

Devotions –Lori Jensen and Bryan Holmen

No Agenda changes

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Tim Neuenschwander, seconded by Lori Jensen. Motion carried unanimously

Property Report – Bryan Holmen

Beam repair – We have been in contact with the contractor, but the repairs have not been scheduled. Contractor looking for available personnel and still believes that work could still be started this winter.

No new issues.

Treasury Report - Tim Neuenschwander

Revenue for November was down \$6,000 from Oct. (\$30,412.69)

Expenses were also down for November.

Net operating loss is still less than \$2,000

Met with the Personnel Committee for interviews for the Financial Secretary position.

An offer was extended to, and accepted by Diane Russo

Bonnie will train Diane

Finance Committee proposed 2020 budget for approval

Motion to approve 1% raises as part of the budget by Lori Jensen, seconded by Janet Koepp. Motion carried; Tim Neuenschwander abstained.

Motion to approve the 2020 budget by the Finance Committee, seconded by Amy Simdon; motion carried unanimously

Pastor's report

On vacation the week following Christmas

Jaci will be leaving as a leader for the middle school youth group. She will be able see the mission trip through to completion. The position will not be replaced at this time.

Asking for volunteers to help with the High School Breakfast

Looking for a leader for 6th grade Pre-confirmation

Mission trip bake sale Dec. 15th (Mission trip this year is to Milwaukee)

Looking to create a Vision 2020 Committee (covering vision, strategy and future)

Christmas Eve worship times to be 5pm and 9pm; Christmas day worship at 10am

Discussion on staff gifts

Synod assembly meetings coming up for May and June:

2020 budget approval

Bishop election coming up for 2020

New Business

Annual meeting tentatively set for Jan 19th

Check in on Committee reports that are due.

Executive session requested

Motion by Lori Jensen, seconded by Amy Simdon to enter into executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Tim Neuenschwander, seconded by Amanda Kosanda to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting **January 14 at 8:00 p.m. at Grace**

-Report Submitted by Kristopher Tobias, Council Vice President.



*For the next 12 months, we would like to share our "Grace Gifts"...our most prized people, who share their time and talents with us each and every month! This month, let us appreciate our dedicated **Assisting Ministers!***



I enjoy serving as an Assistant Minister because I feel the strength of our Congregation during prayer.
-Kelly Witte



The Lord is good to me-so, I serve the Lord.
-Wendy Lehr



I enjoy connecting with people as I serve them communion, and as I greet them at the door. It makes me feel closer to the people I serve. -Jean Scott



It is in the love of Grace that I serve. How wonderful it is that our church should offer this means to experience ministry in this small way. I am thankful to have the church's trust to speak the good news of Jesus.
-Shawn Whitman



I enjoy being an assisting minister because it gives me the opportunity to more actively participate in the worship service and to help other members of the congregation do the same.
-Erik Olsen



I look at it as a way to join my husband, Erik, in our effort to give back to the church. -Andrya Coutts



Serving as an assistant minister has strengthened my relationship with God. It is humbling to be part of the service and wonderful to see everyone's smiling faces on the Sundays that I get to serve.
-Jennifer Hellberg



I enjoy being an Assisting Minister for Grace Lutheran!
-Shawn Koebke



I am happy to help in the Worship Service. At a deeply personal level, serving as an Assisting Minister helps me reaffirm my faith.
-Jeff Gafner

E.L.C.A.
501 Skogen Road
Cambridge, WI
53523

Place
stamp
here

Place address sticker here;
not any higher

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love.

www.gracelutherancambridge.org

“Like Us” on Facebook:
Grace Lutheran Church-Cambridge, WI

Please note:
We broadcast on
Channel 987

Staff & Council Contacts

<u>Pastor:</u>	Jennifer Jelinek	Home: 423-2329	Cell: (608) 295-7120	pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com
<u>Administrative Assistant:</u>	Virginia Becker		(608) 423-3135	gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>	Bonnie Watson		(608) 423-3135	gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com
<u>Music Director:</u>	Judy Brandt		(608) 239-6948	judithbrandt@gmail.com
<u>Handbell Choir Director:</u>	Ann Engelstad			gaengelstad@charter.net
<u>Christian Education Coordinator:</u>	Teresa Neuenschwander		(608) 658-7844	teresa478@hotmail.com
<u>Youth Coordinator:</u>	Jaci Brovont		(608)217-2453	jcb8184@gmail.com
<u>Volunteer Coordinator:</u>	Cindy Hartman			cindyh1029@msn.com

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

<u>President :</u>	Steve Geis	swgeis@yahoo.com
<u>Vice President</u>	Kris Tobias	
<u>Secretary:</u>	Shawn Koebke	
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Tim Neuenschwander	
<u>Outreach:</u>	Jean Scott	
<u>Education:</u>	Amanda Kosanda	
<u>Stewardship</u>	Amy Simdon	
<u>Hospitality:</u>	Lori Jensen	
<u>Evangelism:</u>	Erik Olsen	
<u>Worship:</u>	Janet Koepp	
<u>Property:</u>	Bryan Holmen	